

The Green Oasis

*The Official Newsletter of
Liberty State Park*

FALL 2012

*The Green Oasis is published
by Liberty State Park.*

*We encourage and welcome
your comments and
suggestions. If you have any
ideas for articles for upcom-
ing issues, please contact us
at (201) 915-3409.*

Editor: Lori Garth

Contributors: Sarajane Bruno,
Patricia Hilliard, Jon Luk, and
Michael Timpanaro

Photos: Philip Arrigo, Michael
Timpanaro, Lori Garth, and
Gail Zavian

Layout: Sarajane Bruno

New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection

Division of Parks and Forestry
State Park Service

Chris Christie, Governor

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Bob Martin, Commissioner

Picnic Pavilions Unveiled at Liberty State Park



From left - Robert Rodriguez, Park Superintendent, Councilman Rolando Lavarro, John Tichenor, Past President of Friends of Liberty State Park, Richard Boornazian, Asst. Commissioner, NJDEP Natural and Historic Resources, Michelle Richardson, Director, Hudson County Parks & Community Services and Mark Texel, Director, NJ State Park Service

On September 6, 2012, Liberty State Park hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil a new picnic area featuring eco-friendly amenities and dramatic views of the Statue of Liberty and the New York City skyline.

The two picnic pavilions, one seating 120 visitors and the other seating 80 visitors, are located at the Eastern Terminus of Theodore Conrad Drive on the park property in Jersey City. Each pavilion has lights, electrical outlets and charcoal grills, and the facility is wheelchair accessible. A new restroom facility at the site was designed to be eco-friendly with translucent walls providing natural light, waterless urinals, low-water use toilets and electric hand dryers instead of paper towel dispensers. The exterior of the building is illuminated with energy-saving LED bulbs. Use of the picnic facility is made by reservation only with an affordable day-use fee for each pavilion.

The Department of Environmental Protection began construction on the two pavilions, restroom facility, parking lot, paths and scenic overlooks last year.



(continued from front page)

The \$1.8 million project was primarily funded from New Jersey's Corporate Business Tax fund, with \$200,000 provided by the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund and another \$30,000 from the Friends of Liberty State Park.

For more information on the Freedom Field Pavilions, including reservation information, please contact Liberty State Park at (201) 915-3402 or e-mail lsponline@verizon.net.

Transportation History at the CRRNJ

By Michael Timpanaro



For a number of years an old railroad cart sat unattended in the terminal train shed, partially exposed to the elements. Last year, a volunteer named Bill McKelvey, took it upon himself to research the all but forgotten cart.

He found that this cart represented what would have been a common site at railroad stations from the 19th and 20th centuries. Similar carts can still be found to this day at stations around the world. Most have been repurposed as displays, but some are still in use.

After receiving permission from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Mr. McKelvey restored and painted the cart to look more like what the baggage carts would have been when the CRRNJ was still running trains out of the Terminal.

The cart is now proudly on display in the waiting room as part of a baggage exhibit.

Hawk Watching at Liberty State Park

By Patricia Hilliard

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

On a cold winter day in November, look up into the tall cottonwood trees in Liberty State Park and you may see a Cooper's hawk. The adult has blue-black feathers on its back, but its breast feathers are white with slashes in brown. Besides the red eyes of the adult, the most outstanding feature of the Cooper's hawk is its long tail. It seems almost too long for the bird's size. The tail has bands of black and brown, with the last band on the tail in white. At Liberty State Park, bird watchers have seen the Cooper's hawk hunting rabbit, squirrel, rats and muskrats. It also eats starlings and pigeons. The Cooper's hawk is a graceful, highly-skilled flyer with a wing-span of 24 to 35 inches. This hawk will actually fly up and around tree trunks in pursuit of nervous scampering squirrels. The long tail helps the hawk steer in flight. When a Cooper's hawk flies over a field, it flaps its wings then glides to save energy.

Similar Species

Be careful not to confuse the Cooper's hawk with the sharp-shinned hawk (sharpie). The Cooper's is bigger and has a longer tail and can often be seen at the edge of the woods, near open meadows. The sharpie looks almost identical, except that it is a smaller version, with a wing span of only 16 to 22 inches and a shorter tail. The sharpie is common in deep, dark woodlands, rare in open meadows. It also hunts small birds and mice rather than the larger prey preferred by the Cooper's hawk.



Mating and Nesting

Typical of many hawks, the male Cooper's is smaller than the female. The male builds the nest out of sticks in late winter. The nest can be 26 inches in diameter. While the female sits on the nest, she may lay up to six eggs and incubate them for about a month. The male Cooper's hawk hunts and brings food back to the female and the chicks when they hatch.

Where did the name come from?

William Cooper was one of the founders of the New York Lyceum of Natural History (later the New York Academy of Sciences) in New York City. He was honored by the use of his name for a hawk that was common in the NY-NJ area. Other names used for the Cooper's hawk were the blue darter and the chicken hawk.

Are Cooper's hawks endangered?

Cooper's hawks are another in the success stories of the bird world. During the 1950's their populations were reduced by the use of pesticides and by poultry farmers who shot the hawks to protect their chickens. Thanks to conservation efforts and stricter environmental regulation of pesticide use, Cooper's hawks are back up to strong numbers and doing well in forests and backyards. Watch for them when you take winter walks in Liberty State Park.

Kayak Report 2012

For the third season, Liberty State Park continued in its mission to provide visitors with access to the Hudson River, through its extremely popular kayak eco-tours. The park was once again able to expand the program thanks to the generous support of the Friends of Liberty State Park in their purchase of three new kayaks and additional supplies.

Park naturalists from the Nature Interpretive Center worked with interns from New Jersey City University to conduct a total of twenty eco-tours and an additional four introductory tours during the July 14th City of Water Day Festival, giving 190 participants the opportunity to experience the beauty and diversity of the Hudson River Estuary by kayak. Black skimmers, double crested cormorants, and terns were common bird sightings on the river. The shallow waters of the tidal marsh revealed foraging great blue herons, egrets, and osprey. Walks on Caven Point Beach turned up horseshoe crabs, common mud snails, and a variety of mussel, clam, and oyster shells.

If you are interested in attending a kayak tour next summer, please contact the Liberty State Park Nature Interpretive Center at 201-915-3409, or email lspic@verizon.net to be added to the mailing list. A schedule of dates and pertinent information for the 2013 season will be e-mailed out in the spring. Fees may apply.



What's Happening in Liberty State Park

On Saturday, June 23rd, thousands of Girl Scouts and their families from around the country came to Liberty State Park to celebrate their 100th Anniversary with their B.I.G. (Believe in Girls) Celebration. The day-long event included over 100 activities, an evening concert, and fireworks spectacular. Participants were encouraged to join with the National Wildlife Federation and park staff in planting native flower beds in the park.



Estuary Day 2012 Volunteer Cleanup



On September 29, volunteers from the local community and beyond teamed up to remove garbage and debris from the Richard J. Sullivan State Natural Area in Liberty State Park in celebration of National Estuaries Day and National Public Lands Day. Participants included residents of Jersey City, the Friends of Liberty State Park, the Art of Living Group, Hudson County Community College PTK, a high school Environmental Club from Wayne NJ, and park staff.

2011 Volunteer Recognition Event



Park volunteer is joined by LSP Deputy Superintendent, Jonathan Luk, Volunteer Gardening Coordinator, Maria Wakefield and LSP Superintendent Rob Rodriguez at Recognition Ceremony

On Saturday, September 29th, the staff at Liberty State Park honored its volunteers from the 2011 calendar year. Held in the Blue Comet Auditorium of the CRRNJ Terminal building, a group of over 30 volunteers gathered to share their experiences and enjoy a slideshow of our park volunteers in action.

Volunteering is a great way to experience the park, enjoy the great outdoors, learn a new skill, and give back to the community. Our Volunteer Gardening Program, sponsored by the Friends of Liberty State Park, takes place every Saturday all year long to help care for dozens of planting beds throughout the park. Many of our large volunteer groups, sometimes 100 people or more, make a whole day of their event bringing families and friends together for a day of service. We cannot thank our volunteers enough, the individuals, community groups, and corporate sponsors, for their time and dedication in helping to make our park the treasure it has become.

If you're interested in participating in the Volunteer Gardening Program at Liberty State Park, contact LSP Gardener Maria at (201) 915-3418 or send an e-mail to lspgardening@verizon.net. For other volunteer projects such as trail maintenance and natural resource restoration, send a note to Deputy Superintendent Jon Luk at lspdeputy@verizon.net.



Liberty State Park invites you to :

The Haunted Park!

Come out for a scary good time and learn a little haunted history along the way!



The Haunted Terminal is a walking tour and hay ride and contains components that may be unsuitable for children under the age of 10. Sorry, but due to hayride, absolutely no strollers are allowed with limited access for wheelchairs.

Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

October 24 and 25, 2012 evenings

For ticketing, purchase at the Liberty State Park office located at 200 Morris Pesin Drive, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ. For more information or to purchase tickets by phone, please call park office at (201) 915-3402.

\$5 per adult

\$3 per child (age 12 and under)

Liberty State Park would like to thank the following for their generous support:

Friends of Liberty State Park
Liberty Landing Marina
Statue Cruises
Liberty House Restaurant
Maritime Parc Restaurant
Offshore Sailing
Camp Liberty

SAVE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

LIBERTY STATE PARK'S INTERPRETIVE CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS



BIRD WALK

October 13, 2012
November 3, 2012
December 1, 2012
January 5, 2013
10am – Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Join us for a leisurely stroll along Liberty Walkway in search of winter visitors to the park. Possible species sightings may include ruddy ducks, mergansers, grebes, buffleheads and many more. Dress to be outside, bring binoculars if you have them, we have a limited number that can be borrowed.



FOR THE BIRDS

December 15, 2012
10am – Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Come to the Interpretive Center and make some tasty treats that you will take home and put outside to help our feathered friends make it through the cold days of winter.



NATURE DISCOVERY DAY

January 12, 2013
March 16, 2013
10am – Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Which tree did that leaf come from? What bird is in your backyard? Our hands-on activity stations will allow you to answer these questions and more, at our nature discovery day.



RECYCLED CRAFTS

November 17, 2012
10am – Noon



FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Think twice before you throw away that egg carton or toilet paper tube, it can be used to create all kinds of crafts. Join us to see how to reduce waste by re-using some common household items. From cards to napkin rings, we will help you get ready for the holidays.



WORM WORLD

March 2, 2013
10 – 11:30am

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Come explore the fascinating world of worms and vermiculture. Meet the worms up close and learn how they turn our food waste into compost. Find out how to set up your own worm bin at home.

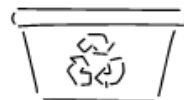


PAPERMAKING

February 2, 2013
10am – Noon

FREE, Pre-Registration Required

Liberty State Park staff will lead you in a hands-on workshop creating your own paper from used paper and natural materials.



NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
State Park Service



If you would like to register for any of the above programs, complete the form below. Please include the program title and date. Mail your completed registration form to: Liberty State Park, Interpretive Center, 200 Morris Pesin Dr., Jersey City, NJ 07305. We will send you a confirmation of your registration and directions to our location. For further information, call (201) 915-3409. You can also fax your registration to (201) 915-3442 or email us at lsPIC@verizon.net. **Spaces are limited! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of 8 or more call for special arrangements.**

PLEASE PRINT & INCLUDE COMPLETE ADDRESS

NAME: _____

Email: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Date & Title of Program: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: _____